

# **Reflective Writing Project**

## **Project Overview:**

During the third and fourth quarter, you will write a book - a book of memories. It will consist of your memories and thoughts from your life. You will be entering high school next year and this memory book will be a project you can look back on to see where you came from and where you thought you were going.

## **Book Format:**

You must have a cover (including your name and year), a dedication page, a copyright page, and a table of contents. We will then spiral bind your final book. You are welcome to scan in pictures once all other work is completed.

## **My Book of Memories:**

Your book of memories must include the following 10 chapters:

Chapter 1: "Who Am I?" (Who are you? Where do you live? What are your life goals? How do you expect to reach these goals?) FIVE PARAGRAPH NARRATIVE ESSAY FORMAT

Chapter 2: "Before I Was, There Were..." (Your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older cousins, siblings, and anybody who may not be a relative but has helped to pave the way for you and your family.) LETTER FORMAT...this can be addressed to your family, yourself, future children, etc.

Chapter 3: "Suddenly, I Became Me" (Earliest memories: people, places, events, all those cute things that you did when you were tiny, that your mother, father, grandparents, or guardians tell you about.) FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY FORMAT (NARRATIVE OR DESCRIPTIVE)

Chapter 4: "School Bells" (Your earliest years in school -- K through 3 -- learning to read, special school programs, special teachers and friends, favorite subject) NARRATIVE POEM FORMAT

Chapter 5: "I Grew Up Here" (Describe your town, neighborhood, rural community) FIVE PARAGRAPH DESCRIPTIVE ESSAY FORMAT

Chapter 6: "My First Crush" (That first crush in elementary school) FAVORITE ORIGINAL POEM FORMAT

OR

"Let's Go the the Movies" (Favorite movies at different times in your life: early childhood and now) FAVORITE ORIGINAL POEM FORMAT

Chapter 7: "I Wish I Could See \_\_\_\_\_ Again" (Tell about a childhood friend that you have no contact with any more but would like to see again.) ANY FORMAT

Chapter 8: "Middle School" (Fears, emotions, and how you have changed, teachers, friends, activities, successes, heartbreaks.) FIVE PARAGRAPH NARRATIVE ESSAY FORMAT

Chapter 9: "Let's Take a Vacation" (A memorable trip you took with family or friends or a trip you would like to take) NARRATIVE POEM -- 4 stanzas

Chapter 10: "High School Expectations" (What do you expect High School to be like? What are your fears? What are you looking forward to the most? Where do you expect to be in 10 years? FIVE PARAGRAPH ESSAY FORMAT

Each chapter in this format will be graded using a specific rubric for that type of writing.

All poems will be graded using the following rubric:

	8	6	4	2
Word Choice	Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the readers's mind.	Write uses vivid words and phrases, but occasionally seems overdone or used inaccurately.	Writer uses words that communicate the clearly, but lacks variety punch or flair.	Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly.
Sensory Images	Vivid, detailed images and intensely felt emotion.	Clear use of sensory images to portray ideas or emotions.	Some use of image, idea, or emotion.	Difficult to visualize image or emotion.
Grammar/Spelling	All grammar and spelling is correct.	Only one or two errors.	More than two errors.	Very frequent grammar/spelling errors.
Flow/Rhythm	All sentences sound natural. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis.	Almost all sentences sound natural.	Most sentences sound natural, but several are difficult to understand.	The sentences are difficult to read and distract from the overall meaning.
Poem Structure	Good understanding of poem structure.	Average understanding of poem structure.	Fair understanding of poem structure	Poor or no understanding of poem structure.

Five paragraph essays and letters will be graded using the following rubric:

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#### IDEAS

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Did the writer focus on one idea (their event)?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Are the ideas presented in a memorable way?

#### ORGANIZATION

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Does the writer's topic sentence identify the event he/she is describing?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Are the details arranged in a way that the essay is easy to read and understand (chronological order)?

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Are a variety of thoughtful transitions used to clearly show how ideas are connected?

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Does the writer's closing sentence sum up the essay and/or explain why the event is significant or exciting?

#### VOICE

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Has the writer created personal voice?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Is dialogue used effectively?

#### WORD CHOICE

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Has the writer used words that help the reader imagine the event described?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Did the writer use specific words that add feeling?

#### SENTENCE FLUENCY

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Did the writer use a variety of sentences structures to keep the readers interest throughout?

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Did the writer use complete sentences (no run-ons or fragments)?

#### CONVENTIONS

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. There are minimal or no errors in capitalization, spelling, grammar, or punctuations.

The final book will be graded using the following rubric for a total of 35 points.

5-4 points	3-2 points	1-0 points
All 10 Chapters completed in required format.	8-9 Chapter completed in required format.	Less than 8 chapters completed using the correct format.
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The final product is organized according to chapters with a table of contents.	The final product is organized according to chapters but is missing the table of contents.	The final product does not have a table of contents.
The final book of memories is completed showing a lot of thought and hard work.	The final book of memories is completed showing some thought and hard work.	The final memories was quickly thrown together.
There is a copyright page written correctly.	There is an incomplete copyright page.	There is no copyright page written.
There is a dedication page with no grammatical or mechanical errors.	There is a dedication page, but it contains up to five grammatical/mechanical/spelling errors.	There is a dedication page, but it contains more than five grammatical/mechanical/spelling errors.
The final product was done and handed in on time.	The final product was handed in a day late.	The final product was handed in more than one day late.